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Title: Need to ensure adequate availability of water in Palar River in Tamil Nadu and also expedite Pennayar - Palar Link Canal Project.

SHRI B. SENGUTTUVAN (VELLORE): River Palar, an inter-State river, originating in Karnataka, runs to a distance of 53 kms in Karnataka, 30 kms in Andhra Pradesh and 222 kms in Tamil Nadu. The river is covered under Schedule-A of the Madras-Mysore Agreement. As per Clause II of Agreement upstream State cannot construct any dam or reservoir without consent of the downstream State. During the monsoons, where adequate rainfall is received, the waters of the river replenish more than one thousand tanks, ponds and lakes on either side of its banks, which are the sources of water of drinking and irrigation in Vellore and Kancheepuram Districts. The Palar ayacut supports cultivation of roughly 4.2 lakh acres of lands. However, due to the construction of Check-dams across the river by neighbouring States of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, the water flow in the river has completely ceased leaving the land patched, dry and drought-stricken. To compound the problems, the Andhra Pradesh Government is raising the height of check dam in Perumpallam village on the very border of Tamil Nadu State to a height of 12 feet and more with a view to converting it into a reservoir. This would seriously impede water flow in the Palar and deprive Tamil Nadu of the much needed Palar water. In order to protect the ayacutdars, the inter-state Palar River has to be nationalised removing all dams and barriers constructed across it and the 52 km long Pennayar-Palar Link Canal Project has to be implemented expeditiously. Our Hon'ble Chief Minister has already voiced her opinion regarding interlinking of rivers and nationalisation of interstate rivers which alone would assure equitable distribution of scarce water resources to all stakeholders. I call on the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation to take all steps to rejuvenate Palar River.